

Serial No. 09/552,705

Filed: April 19, 2000

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claim 91 as follows.

1-90 (Canceled).

91. (Currently Amended) A two-hybrid screening method for identifying a pair of molecules that ~~interact with~~ bind to a proline-rich nuclear receptor co-regulatory protein (PNRC) molecule via the binding sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, wherein said PNRC molecule is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:8 and SEQ ID NO:9, wherein said PNRC molecule ~~contains~~ comprises said binding sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, wherein said PNRC molecule binds a liganded nuclear receptor and wherein said pair of molecules consists of a nuclear hormone receptor peptide molecule and a ligand molecule, the method comprising:

- a. providing a cell culture (1) that expresses a bait PNRC fusion molecule which comprises said PNRC molecule and (2) that ~~contains~~ comprises a reporter gene, wherein the expression of said reporter gene depends on binding of said bait PNRC fusion molecule to said nuclear hormone receptor peptide molecule;
- b. transfecting said cell culture with an expression library of nucleic acids that encode said nuclear hormone receptor peptide molecules to be screened, to produce a library of cells that express said nuclear hormone receptor peptide molecules to be screened and said bait PNRC;
- c. dividing said cells into first and second portions;

Serial No. 09/552,705

Filed: April 19, 2000

Page 3

- d. growing said first portion of said cells in the presence of said ligand molecule to be screened;
- e. growing said second portion of said cells in the absence of said ligand molecule to be screened;
- f. comparing the level of expression of said reporter gene in the cells of said first and second portions; and
- g. if cells of said first and second portions express said reporter gene at different levels, identifying said pair of molecules as ~~interacting with~~ binding to PNRC.

92. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91 wherein said PNRC molecule is SEQ ID NO: 9.

93. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91 wherein said PNRC molecule is SEQ ID NO: 8.

94. (Previously presented) The method of claim 91 wherein said nuclear hormone receptor peptide molecule and said ligand molecule are selected from the sets of (i) estrogen receptor and estradiol, (ii) glucocorticoid receptor and deoxycorticosterone, (iii) androgen receptor and dehydrotestosterone, (iv) progesterone receptor and progesterone, (v) thyroid hormone receptor and T3, (vi) retinoic acid receptor and all-trans-retinoic acid, and (vii) 9-cis-retinoic acid receptor and 9-cis-retinoic acid.